

Blackledge Stories

Preface

This book relates to the Blackledge Family motto: *Lux et Perseverantia*. Light and Perseverance: the inner light of memory and the stories that have persevered down through the ages from those memories.

This unique family motto was introduced to us by our colleague and co-compiler David W. Blackledge of Carlisle, PA in the First Edition of *Blackledges in America*. The concept of Heraldry is prevalent in English history, and mottoes are very common in the British-style heraldry (UK, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand), and much less common in other countries. One can find a great many motivating (and entertaining) family mottoes listed in HeraldryWiki – for our family, I’m delighted with *Lux et Perseverantia*.

The idea for this book is credited to my sister Penn – aka Penelope Sue Blackledge Woods. A freelance writer by vocation, Penn has persevered through the years, and her collection of *Family Frenzies*, essays, personal diaries, and photographic scrapbooks has shed light on numerous family stories and has been instrumental and invaluable to the compiler.

This project was envisioned as a slim companion volume to *Blackledges in America*, the 3300 page 3-volume genealogy compiled by the veteran team of Blackledge, Blackledge, and Blackledge. Not another family law firm, but specifically Mary Ann of Grants Pass, OR, Col. David W. of Carlisle Barracks, PA, and yours truly. However as touted in *Jaws: The Revenge* (1987): “This time ... it’s personal.” Or perhaps my brother Pete would quote the line from *Revenge of the Nerds* (1984): “It’s time for the odd to get even!” (Try translating that into a Latin family motto.)

Considering the title, I can envision that there are those who will lament that all the stories encompassed here are not strictly Blackledge stories. To those I say what Louise Farmer Smith empowered me to say: This is my book. Feel empowered to write your own. And get off the grass. (OK, I added that last one.)

Biographical references to individuals in the book are designated as BiA2 (Blackledges in America, Second Edition, ISBN 978-0-9722704-2-7 [hardcopy] and ISBN 978-0-9722704-1-0 [CD]) and FGM # (FindAGrave.com, Memorial #).

It is entirely possible that someone, someday will pick up this work and generate a Follow-on Edition – however it is more likely that any follow-on will appear in some digital repository or internet archive. As with the genealogical volumes, we dedicate this collection to those who are to come

after us - beyond apparent direct descendants, we expect Life to provide the light, and researchers to persevere. We have recorded these stories as another link in that chain.

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